II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1.(Original)   A print-on-demand method for creating and reproducing books by heterogeneous systems, said method comprising the steps of:

a) receiving as a complete book file, including a book block, a digital representation, with customized formatting, of a book targeted for reproduction;

b) converting said complete book file to have a solution-independent, intermediate format, in a universal format, devoid of said customized formatting and any particulars unique to an originator of said complete book file;

c) storing said solution-independent, intermediate formatted book file along with book identification information as a mastered book;

d) converting said solution-independent, intermediate formatted book file to a solution-dependent formatted book file to match the needs of a particular book reproduction system; and

e) reproducing said book from information comprised by said solution-dependent formatted book file.

2. (Original) The method in Claim 1, wherein said book in step a) is originally in the form of electronic files.

3. (Original) The method in Claim 1, wherein said book in step a) is originally in the form of a hard copy, and step a) further comprises the steps of:

scanning the components of said book; and

converting scanned components of said book into said digital representation.

4. (previously presented) The method in Claim 1, wherein said book identification information comprises a book title.

5. (previously presented) The method in Claim 1, wherein said book identification information comprises a book author.

6. (previously presented) The method in Claim 1, wherein said book identification information comprises a book publisher.

7. (Currently Amended) The method in Claim 1, wherein said book identification information comprises a an International Standard Book Number.

8. (previously presented) The method in Claim 1, wherein said book identification information comprises a book publishing date.

9. (Original) The method in Claim 1, wherein step d) comprises the step of:
acquiring or generating hard copy book production information.

10. (Original) The method in Claim 9, wherein said book production information comprises printing information.

11. (Original) The method in Claim 9, wherein said book production information comprises binding information.

12. (previously presented) The method in Claim 1, wherein step d) further comprises the step of:
via a Raster Image Processor, creating a bitmap of a book block.

13. (previously presented) The method in Claim 1, wherein step d) further comprises the step of:
via a Raster Image Processor, creating a bitmap of a book cover.

14. (Original) The method in Claim 1, wherein step d) further comprises the step of:
acquiring or generating hard copy book production information.

15. (Original) The method in Claim 1, wherein for electronic books, said book production information comprises security information.

16. (Original) The method in Claim 1, wherein for electronic books, said book production information comprises viewing capabilities.

17. (Original) The method in Claim 1, wherein for electronic books, said book production information comprises printing capabilities.

18. (Original) The method in Claim 1 wherein step e) comprises for electronic books, the step of:
   providing access to said book via an electronic link.

19. (Original) The method in Claim 1 wherein step e) comprises for electronic books, the step of:
   delivering said book to a predefined destination.

20. (currently amended)   A   print-on-demand   system   for   creating   and reproducing books by heterogeneous reproduction workflows, said system comprising:
   a book file generator adapted to generate a digital representation with customized formatting of a book targeted for reproduction, said ~~reprentation~~ representation being a complete book file, including a book block;
   a solution-independent converter adapted to convert said complete book file to have a solution-independent, intermediate format, in a universal format, devoid of said customized formatting and any particulars unique to an originator of said complete book file;
   a book file memory adapted to store said solution-independent, intermediate formatted book file along with book identification information as a mastered book;

a solution-dependent converter adapted to convert said solution-independent, intermediate formatted book file to a solution-dependent formatted book files to match the needs of a particular book reproduction workflow utilized; and

a book reproducer adapted to reproduce said book from information comprised by said solution-dependent formatted book file.

21. (Original) The system in Claim 20, wherein said book in step a) is originally in the form of electronic files.

22. (Original) The system in Claim 20, wherein said book in step a) is originally in the form of a hard copy, and said book file generator further comprises:

a book scanner adapted to scan the components of said book; and

a scanned component converter adapted to convert scanned components of said book into said digital representation.

23. (previously presented) The system in Claim 20, wherein said book identification information comprises a book title.

24. (previously presented) The system in Claim 20, wherein said book identification information comprises a book author.

25. (previously presented) The system in Claim 20, wherein said book identification information comprises a book publisher.

26. (Currently Amended) The method in Claim 20, wherein said book identification information comprises a-an International Standard Book Number.

27.(previously presented) The system in Claim 20, wherein said book identification information comprises a book publishing date.

28. (Original) The system in Claim 20, wherein said solution-dependent converter comprises:

a book production information generator adapted to generate hard copy book production information.

29. (Original) The system in Claim 28, wherein said book production information comprises printing information.

30. (Original) The system in Claim 28, wherein said book production information comprises binding information.

31. (previously presented) The system in Claim 20, wherein said solution-dependent converter comprises:

a Raster Image Processor adapted to create a bitmap of a book block.

32. (previously presented) The system in Claim 20, wherein step d) further comprises the step of:

a Raster Image Processor adapted to create a bitmap of a book cover.

33. (Original) The system in Claim 20, wherein said solution-dependent converter comprises:

a book production information generator adapted to generate hard copy book production information.

34. (Original) The system in Claim 20, wherein for electronic books, said book production information comprises security information.

35. (Original) The system in Claim 20, wherein for electronic books, said book production information comprises viewing capabilities.

36. (Original) The system in Claim 20, wherein for electronic books, said book production information comprises printing capabilities.

37. (Original) The system in Claim 20 wherein said book reproducer comprises for electronic books:

an electronic link adapted to provide access to said book.

38. (Original) The system in Claim 20 wherein said book reproducer comprises for electronic books:

an electronic link adapted to deliver said book to a predefined destination.